DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 479 065 CS 512 328

AUTHOR	Collins, James; Blot, Richard K.
TITLE	Literacy and Literacies: Texts, Power, and Identity. Studies in the Social and Cultural Foundations of Language.
ISBN	ISBN-0-521-59661-0
PUB DATE	2003-05-00
NOTE	217p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Cambridge University Press, Midland Ave, Port Chester, NY 10573-4930 ($22). Tel: 800-872-7423 (Toll Free); Fax: 914-937-4712; Web site: http://www.cambridge.org.
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Opinion Papers (120)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available From EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Case Studies; Developed Nations; Developing Nations; *Literacy; *Scholarship; Synthesis
IDENTIFIERS	*Identity Formation; Power; Subjectivity; Text Factors

ABSTRACT

This book surveys both classical and current (mainly anthropological) literature in the field of literacy studies, combined with critical discussion of particular cases. The book explores questions of power, cultural form, and historical process as they are raised by and developed in studies of literacy, and draws on the history of literacy, critical education studies, and the anthropology of literacy to develop a new synthesis. It argues that neither the generalizing, universalist claims of the "consequences of literacy" thesis, nor the contextualizing, situated studies of the "New Literacy" offer satisfactory approaches to the phenomenon of literacy. Through analysis of two domains--that of literacies and power and that of literacies and subjectivity--the book reveals historical processes associated with literacy practices while also challenging received assumptions about literacy, intellectual development, and social progress. Following a Foreword (Brian V. Street), chapters in the book are: (1) Introduction: Texts, Power, and Identity; (2) The Literacy Thesis: Vexed Questions of Rationality, Development, and Self; (3) Situated Approaches to the Literacy Debate; (4) Literacies and Power in Modern Nation States: Euro-American Lessons; (5) Literacies and Identity Formation: American Cases; (6) Literacy, Power, and Identity: Colonial Legacies and Indigenous Transformations; and (7) Conclusion: Literacy Lessons--Beginnings, Ends, and Implications. Each chapter includes notes. Also contains approximately 500 references. (NKA)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made